

[Town Letterhead]

**Emergency Order of the Wellesley Board of Health and the Wellesley Board of Selectmen
Regarding Practices to Prevent the Spread of Infectious Respiratory Droplets**

On March 10, 2020, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts issued a Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19. COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that can cause severe respiratory distress and the need for hospitalization, and lead to death, in some persons, but cause no symptoms whatsoever in others. Regardless of symptoms, a person infected with the virus may easily transmit it to others in close proximity (within six feet) through respiratory droplets.

On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued an Order that allowed for the continuation of operation of essential services in the Commonwealth subject to certain conditions, and closed businesses providing non-essential services. On April 10, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) issued an Advisory regarding face coverings to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. On April 27, 2020, the Massachusetts Attorney General issued guidance on local authority to state that municipalities can issue an order or reasonable regulation to require people to wear face coverings in public. As of April 30, 2020, within the Commonwealth there have been 62,205 laboratory confirmed cases of the virus and 3,562 deaths.

It is essential that the spread of this virus is slowed in order to protect members of the public and the ability of healthcare providers and other first responders to continue to safeguard the public health and safety of our residents and visitors. For that reason, the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen are issuing the following Emergency Order Regarding Practices to Prevent the Spread of Infectious Respiratory Droplets, pursuant to their joint authority under M.G.L. c.111, §104:

Face Coverings

1. All members of the public shall wear a face covering such as a fabric mask, bandana, or scarf, over their mouth and nose, whenever entering into the inside of any building open to the public or engaging in any activity within a confined or enclosed facility where other members of the public are present. This includes essential businesses, enclosed worksites, common areas and communal spaces of commercial and residential buildings, and Town-owned buildings.
2. Per MDPH and Board of Health guidance, face coverings are not mandated to be placed on children younger than the age of 5 years old, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
3. Members of the public may make their own [face coverings](#); the Centers for Disease Control has published helpful instructions. If a resident of Wellesley does not have a face

covering, or needs assistance with obtaining one, please call the Supporting Wellesley Call Center at 781-239-0256.

Essential Businesses

1. As stated above, members of the public entering an essential business, including but not limited to pharmacies, grocery stores, home improvement stores, banks, and restaurants, shall wear a face covering. This requirement shall extend to parking lots that are appurtenant or adjacent to the essential business.
2. All employees working inside an essential business shall wear a face covering. Essential businesses shall increase employee illness surveillance by ensuring that employees do not come to work while sick and asking employees if they have been exposed to COVID-19 at the beginning of a shift.
3. Signage must be posted at all entry doors advising members of the public that face coverings and social distancing must be maintained inside the facility and outside if waiting to enter.
4. Social distancing of six feet shall be maintained while inside the essential business. Clear markings of such distance for purposes of queue formation shall be visible for members of the public.
5. Restaurants and other food establishments may only serve food through drive-thru, curbside takeout, counter service, or delivery. Employees who bring food to curbside delivery stations must wear a face covering even while outside.
6. Members of the public may not bring their own reusable bags or mugs into an essential business.
7. Employees and/or independent contractors of essential businesses that do not operate inside a confined space or building, such as landscapers and construction workers, must wear a face covering to the extent that they are in close proximity to others.
8. To the extent necessary, the Wellesley Police Department and the Board of Health shall enforce this Emergency Order with respect to essential businesses, and such businesses that are not adhering to its requirements may face legal action.
9. Essential businesses are encouraged to take other action to enhance social distancing efforts, such as offering home delivery options and encouraging online ordering and payment; establishing one-way flow for aisle shopping; and, relocating high-demand items to easily accessible areas to limit the amount of time customers are inside the business.

Outdoor Physical Activity

1. The Emergency Order does not apply to persons who are engaged in permissible outdoor physical activity when in public outdoor areas, including sidewalks, parks, trails, and the Fuller Brook Path. However, it is strongly advised that every person use a face covering for public health and safety. Members of the public should continue to maintain social distancing while engaging in outdoor physical activity. Pedestrians are advised to pass each other on opposing sides of the street when safely able to do so and to step aside to avoid close proximity to other persons.
2. Members of the public may not engage in running, jogging, or biking on the Fuller Brook Path as long as this Emergency Order remains in effect.

Timing

This Emergency Order shall go into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Monday, May 4, 2020, and shall remain in effect until notice is given pursuant to the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen's judgment that it is no longer needed, or until the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency is lifted, whichever occurs first.

We, the undersigned, in counterpart, certify that the foregoing Emergency Order was made at a joint meeting of the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen duly noticed pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, as amended.

On Behalf of the Board of Health:

Date:

Name:
Title

Date:

On Behalf of the Board of Selectmen:

Name:
Title